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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,548	02/08/2001	Takashi Miyazaki	9319S-000175	5686

7590 10/16/2003
Harness Dickey & Pierce
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EXAMINER

TON, MINH TOAN T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/762,548

Applicant(s)

MIYAZAKI ET AL

Examiner

Toan Ton

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-13 and 18-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 10-16-02 6) ☐ Other:

Election/Restriction

1. An election of Group I directing to claims 1-7, 14-17 is acknowledged. Claims 8-13, 18-21 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4, line 2, "the joined area" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-7, 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art (APA hereinafter) in view of Hida et al (US 593695).

APA discloses a liquid crystal display comprising: liquid crystal sealed between a pair of substrates bonded by a sealing; the sealing section is formed so as to surround liquid crystal with a sealing material and anisotropic conductive material joined to each other.

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The limitation not disclosed by APA is at least one of the pair of substrates provided with alignment mark corresponding to the position of the sealing material or the anisotropic conductive material.

The use alignment mark(s) is common and known for accurately aligning the substrates. Hida discloses a liquid crystal display comprising the substrates provided with alignment marks corresponding to the position of the sealing material. Hida discloses that the use of such alignment marks offers advantages such as improved-efficiency, excellent productivity. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ alignment marks corresponding to the position of the sealing material for accurately aligning the substrates while achieving advantages such as improved-efficiency, excellent productivity

It is noted "alignment mark corresponding to the position of the sealing material" is an obvious variation (i.e., not patentably distinct) to one of ordinary skill in the art to "alignment mark corresponding to the position the anisotropic conductive material".

Hida discloses alignment marks formed various shapes such as crisscross, square, L-shaped. Hida discloses that the shapes are varied so as assuring accurate alignment.

Hida discloses that the distance between the alignment marks varies so as assuring accurate and improved alignment.

It would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ alignment marks having a width at most equal (equal or less than) a width of the sealing material and the anisotropic conductive material for minimizing interference with the display elements such as display electrodes, liquid crystal material, etc.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan Ton whose telephone number is (703) 305-3489. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956.

September 26, 2003


TOANTON
PRIMARY EXAMINER